



**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
- 1
- ~~2.~~ (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting melanin synthesis in the skin of a patient comprising administering directly to said skin of said patient an amount of ZAG sufficient to effect said inhibition.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding ZAG is administered under conditions such that said sequence is expressed and ZAG is thereby produced.
5. (Cancelled).
- 2
- ~~6.~~ (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>1</sup>~~2~~ wherein said patient suffers from ~~increased or aberrant skin pigmentation~~ hyperpigmentation.
7. (Cancelled).

8. ~~(Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered systemically.~~

9. ~~(Withdrawn) A composition comprising ZAG wherein said composition is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion.~~

10. ~~(Withdrawn) A sterile composition comprising ZAG and a carrier.~~

11. ~~(Withdrawn) A composition comprising ZAG in dosage unit form.~~

<sup>3</sup>  
~~12.~~ (New) The method according to claim <sup>2</sup>~~6~~ wherein said hyperpigmentation results from sun-exposure, inflammation or scarring.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~13.~~ (New) The method according to claim <sup>2</sup>~~6~~ wherein said patient suffers from a disorder associated with congenital or acquired proliferation of melanocytes.